

Food Inspection in SME's

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Regional Roundtable Meeting

Advancing the Implementation of Framework for Action on Food Safety

Inspection Purpose

- ensure compliance with regulations and laws governing food safety?
- Have confidence that, even when you're not there, the food business and staff know what to do, and are doing the right things, to provide safe and suitable food?

- Both can be true, but they often aren't (they weren't in NZ)
 - NZ decided that if only one was true we would prefer the second (and shaped our regulations and laws around this).



Risk-based inspection because this would:

- prevent many outbreaks of foodborne illness and reduce the public health impact of those that do occur.
 - Our traditional inspections tended not to accurately identify risk, directly prevent risk, or "allow" the operation to prevent risk or reduce risk on behalf of the public.
- make the most effective use of the resources available
 - By establishing robust criteria that enable us to target efforts where it's likely to make the most difference (that is the areas that, if left unchecked, are more likely to lead to foodborne disease).



Practical approach to risk-based inspection:

Many food safety hazards can often be identified.

- Everything is equally important = nothing is important
- Not all hazards present an equal level of risk or will be present in all businesses
- So, we concentrate on a fewer number of key hazard controls that really make the most difference to food safety – the Top 5



Examples of "Top 5" Information:





Is the size of business important?

- NZ has 97% SME's (fewer than 20 employees)
 - Businesses of any size can make unsafe or unsuitable food.
 - Some SME's can make large quantities of food, and distribute this widely.
- *Size* of the food operation is less important but size can be a capability indicator which <u>is</u> important.
 - 43% functional illiteracy but still motivated by customer safety, reputation, and staying in business



Making rules easy to understand and use:



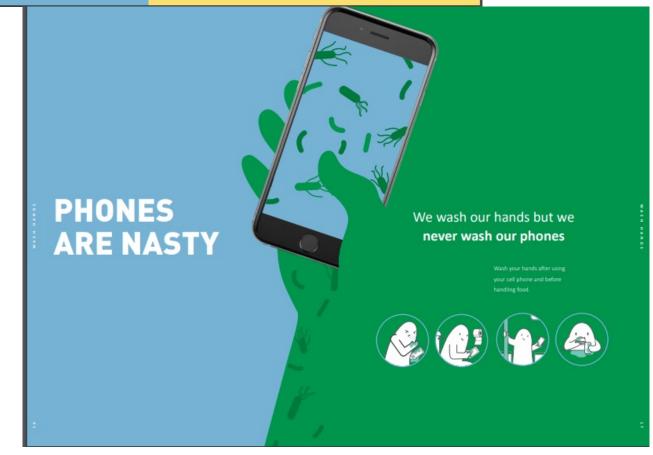


Guidance is even simpler:











Is where food is made important?

- Food Safety controls and critical control points mostly relate to the type of food being made and the processes being used.
- Where food manufacture happens is less important (but there are still some things to think about).



Kitchens/Premises don't make safe food;

People Do











The roles of the verifier (inspector):



Collect evidence of performance (show me/tell me)



Encourage compliance (education, guidance, advice – but not consulting)



Manage non-compliance & risk



